Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

DO NOT
ENTER
/J. M./
/A.J.F./**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented)   A method for generating characterizing information including a plurality of descriptors for a selected block of printed material, , said method comprising the steps of:

a) scanning said printed material;

b) applying a predetermined set of algorithms for computing characterizing information;

c) determining estimates of robustness for each algorithm in said predetermined set of algorithms;

d) selecting, as a function of said estimates, a combination of descriptors generated by a corresponding combination of said algorithms as said characterizing information;

e) including said characterizing information into a secure indicia;

f) scanning said indicia and said printed block; and

g) determining uniqueness of said indicia using information obtained from step f.